

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of locating an entity in a multilingual environment comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing an entity identification and at least one entity characteristic in an entity record; said entity characteristic being a term in a first language;
 - 10 (b) constructing a translation table including at least a first language term and a second language term for a descriptor;
 - (c) specifying said second language term for said descriptor as a search parameter; and
 - (d) searching said entity record for an entity characteristic corresponding to said search term.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one entity characteristic is at least one of a product and a service.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing an entity identification and at least one entity characteristic in an entity record comprises the steps of:
- (a) selecting said first language as a language of a registration;
 - (b) displaying a registration form in said first language;

- (c) reading data identifying said entity and said at least one entity characteristic from said registration form; and
- (d) storing said entity identification and said at least one entity characteristic in said entity record in said first language.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one entity characteristic is at least one of a product and a service.

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7. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.

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8. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

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9. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of displaying a registration form in said first language comprises the steps of:

- (a) reading a first content of said registration form in said first language from a resource file;
- (b) reading said first language term for said descriptor from said translation table; and
- (c) displaying a registration form comprising said first content and first language term for said descriptor.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

5 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of specifying said second language term for said descriptor as a search parameter comprises the steps of:

- (a) selecting said second language as a language of a search;
- (b) displaying a search form in said second language;
- (c) displaying a second language term from said translation table for at least one descriptor; and
- 10 (d) selecting at least one said displayed descriptor as said search parameter.

15 13. The method of claim 12 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a specialized terminology of a natural language.

20 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of searching said entity record for an entity characteristic corresponding to said search parameter comprises the steps of:

- (a) comparing said search parameter to said entity characteristic included in said entity record;
- (b) designating as said search parameter another term for said descriptor from said translation table; said another term for said descriptor being in another language; and
- 25 (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) for at least said another term for said descriptor in said first language.

30 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one entity characteristic is at

least one of a product and a service.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.

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18. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

10 19. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of reporting a result of said searching in said second language.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of reporting a result of said searching in said second language comprises the steps of:

- 15 (a) reading a first content of a search result report in said second language from a resource file;
- (b) reading said second language term for said descriptor from said translation table; and
- 20 (c) displaying said search result form comprising said first content and said second language term for said descriptor.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises a natural language.

25 22. The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

30 ~~23~~ A method of communicating in a multilingual environment comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a message in a native language of said communicant;
- (b) selecting a language of said recipient;
- (c) searching a database for a translation of said message in said language of said recipient; and
- (d) transmitting said translation of said message to said recipient.

24. A method of locating an entity in a multilingual environment comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a language of a registration;
- (b) storing in a computer searchable entity record an identification of said entity and at least one entity characteristic in said registration language;
- (c) constructing a translation table including at least a registration language term and a second language term for a descriptor;
- (f) specifying said second language term for said descriptor as a search parameter; and
- (g) searching said entity record for an entity characteristic corresponding to at least one of said second language term and said registration language term.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one entity characteristic is at least one of a product and a service.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein at least one of said registration language and said second language comprises a natural language.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein at least one of said registration language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein said entity characteristic is said registration language term for said descriptor.

29. A method of locating an entity in a multilingual environment comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a language of a registration;
- (b) storing in a computer searchable entity record an identification of said entity and at least one entity characteristic in said registration language;
- (c) constructing a translation table including at least a registration language term and a second language term for a descriptor;
- (d) specifying said second language term for said descriptor as a search parameter;
- (e) searching said entity record for an entity characteristic corresponding to said second language term;
- (f) selecting said registration language term for said descriptor as a search term; and
- (g) searching said entity record for an entity characteristic corresponding to said search term.

30. A data processing system comprising:

- (a) a registration module to record an identification of an entity and at least one entity characteristic in a computer searchable entity record, said entity characteristic being a term in a registration language;
- (b) a computer searchable translation table including at least a term in said registration language and a term in a second language for a descriptor; and
- (c) a search engine to accept a designation of said second language term for said descriptor as a search parameter and to

search said entity record for a entity characteristic corresponding to said registration language term.

5 31. The system of claim 30 wherein at least one of said registration language and said second language comprises a natural language.

10 32. The system of claim 30 wherein at least one of said first language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.

15 33. The system of claim 30 wherein said registration module comprises:
(a) a first content of a registration form in said registration language stored in a computer readable resource file;
(b) a registration form generator to display a registration form on a data processing device; said registration form comprising said first content and said registration language term for at least one said descriptor;
(c) an input device to enable a registrant to input an identification of said entity and an entity characteristic to said registration form; and
20 (d) an integration engine to read said input to said registration form and store said identification of said entity and entity characteristic in said entity record.

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34. The system of claim 33 wherein said input device enables said registrant to select a displayed registration language term for at least one descriptor as said entity characteristic.

5 35. The system of claim 33 wherein said integration engine further comprises a communication module to request and receive a translation of an entity characteristic read from said registration form.

36. The system of claim 30 wherein said search engine comprises:

- 10 (a) a first content of a search form in said second language stored in a computer readable resource file;
- (b) a search form generator to display a search form on a data processing device; said search form comprising said first content and said second language term for at least one said descriptor;
- 15 (c) an input device to enable a searcher to select a displayed term for a descriptor as a search parameter;
- (d) a search term selector to select said registration language term corresponding to said search parameter from said translation table; and
- 20 (e) a comparison engine to compare said search term to said entity characteristic of said entity record.

37. The system of claim 30 further comprising:

- 25 (a) a first language message file comprising a first language translation of a message;
- (b) a second language message file comprising a second language translation of said message; and
- (c) a communication module to transmit said first language translation from said first language message file in response to a user selection of said second language translation of said
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message.

5 38. The system of claim 30 further comprising a communication interface to a data processing network enabling communication between said system and a remote data processing device.

10 39. The system of claim 38 wherein at least one of said registration module, said translation table, and said search engine is installed on said remote data processing device.

40. The system of claim 32 wherein at least one of said registration module and said search engine comprises a document displayable on said remote data processing device.

15 ~~41.~~ A data processing system comprising:

- (a) a communication interface enabling a remote data processing device to communicate with said system;
 - (b) a registration module, including a document displayable on said remote data processing device, enabling a user of said remote data processing device to select a registration language and input an identity of said entity and at least one entity characteristic, said entity characteristic being a term in said registration language;
 - (c) a searchable entity record storing said entity identification and said at least one entity characteristic;
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- 5 (d) a translation table comprising at least one descriptor term in said registration language and at least one substantially equivalent descriptor term in a second language;
- (e) a search engine, including a document displayable on said remote data processing device, to identify from said entity record an entity associated with said descriptor term in said registration language in response to designation of said descriptor term in said second language as a search parameter.
- 10 42. The system of claim 41 wherein said at least one entity characteristic is at least one of a product and a service.
43. The system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said registration language and said second language comprises a natural language.
- 15 44. The system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said registration language and said second language comprises an activity related terminology of a natural language.
- 20 45. The system of claim 41 further comprising an integration engine requesting at least one translation of a descriptor term in response to an input of an entity characteristic not matching a descriptor term in said translation table.